# Army Files Yield Data on Civilians

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The Army has announced it has found some intelligence information on political activities of American civilians in a microfilm library nearly four years after records were supposed to have been purged.

Secretary of the Army Howard Callaway ordered the file, located in a Washington counterintelligence analysis and research office, to be "rescreened on a priority basis for the purpose of eliminating all material on United States civilians not affiliated with the Department of Defense which is not retainable under current regulations."

Callaway also ordered that, while the screening is under way, "no one be permitted access to this file except for the purpose of screening it, or with his (Callaway's) personal approval."

**CALLAWAY** said the information on activities of U.S. civilians in the microfilm library was discovered in the course of what he called a "continuing review of investigative activities by the Army."

"The improperly retained information is contained with material on foreign intelligence services, foreign terrorist groups and the like," Callaway added.

Congress was informed of the existence of the file in 1971, and was told at that time that if all the information were not purged at least the index would be altered to prevent use of the information. The existence of the computer index was contrary to that pledge, and prompted yesterday's announcement, the Army explained.

**MEANWHILE**, the Army secretary said, he has ordered an investigation "to determine responsibility for the failure to keep this file in compliance with Defense Department and Army regulations."

Those regulations, issued in March 1971, barred Army intelligence surveillance and gathering of information on U.S. civilians and organizations not affiliated with the Defense Department.

"On the basis of a limited search to date," Callaway notified Congress, "nothing has been found in the file to indicate that the Army has engaged in any surveillance of U.S. civilians within the United States in violation of Defense Department regulations subsequent to the promulgation of these regulations in 1971."